

THE ORIGINAL

Moonbeams

BY COLONEL LITTLE

The Smallest Newspaper in the West

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1956 License Plates are ripe in the Valley of the Moon

No, you aren't likely to be arrested Sunday if you haven't got new license plates on your car, but you better have a receipt or something on hand to show that you have made application for new plates. The law boys are kinda lenient, usually. At that, it isn't the best time of year to require the payment of a lot of cash for new licenses. Why couldn't they pick, say, about Labor day, when everybody has (or may have) a little surplus cash. Certainly nobody has along about this time o' year.

FOR VALENTINE DAY, send cut flowers, corsages, plants, roses. BANCROFT NURSERY, So. Broadway, Sonoma.

And comes along pretty soon Valentine's day (Feb. 14). It's a bit changed in later years. Nowadays many a swain sends flowers to his beloved. There are clever cards, candies, and a vast array of gifts of all kinds.

Remember the old "comic" valentines? They weren't really comic; some were deadly barbs, and caused many a person some soul-searching inquiry as to whether or not he deserved the kind of "comics" he received. We once had a very obnoxious one relating mostly to our proclivity for smoking cigars.

Had a girl (at about 14 years), and bought her a valentine one year for \$1.25—an almost unheard of price; but at that time we were really making money, selling sandwiches to the workers in a piano factory. Scared to deliver it in person, we mailed it. The package

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was too big to go through the postoffice window, but it finally got to the lass. Worked, too. Took her to a band concert in the Presbyterian church soon after, and spent a rather boresome evening at her home on another night, her parents present, of course. But that was all. She married somebody, and, we suppose, lived happily ever after.

ARE YOU WORRIED about FIRE? Calm down and relax. Call WE 8-2425 for demonstration. Absolute protection at small cost.

Got to thinking about Jack London. We've read four or five of his books, also a biography written by John Storm. But we'd really like to know more about him. Why not somebody around here take up the assignment? Our nomination would be Irving Shepherd, his nephew, who now lives on the old London estate near Glen Ellen. The whole world would welcome such a book.

A confirmed bachelor is a man who postpones marriage until he can afford it. VALLEY WATCH REPAIR, Boyes Springs.

Ellen "Mac" Bom up at the Powder Box Beauty shop on Arnold drive tells us she's now furnishing Rayette rose waves to her numerous customers. Don't know exactly what the term means, but most women will tell you it's the "mostest," and they're glad they can get such a wave now right here at home.

GOOD FURNITURE isn't exclusive with us alone. But let's trade with our friends and neighbors. SONOMA FURNITURE MART.

More from Glen Ellen: The monthly free fish fry is on again tonight (Friday) at Rustic Inn. Manny, the gracious host behind the bar, says there'll be plenty of fish for everybody, and for gosh sakes, why don't you drop in?

BROADWAY CAFE, Sonoma. Pop and Mom Medros will be glad to see you. Friendly folks. Take-out License.

So far we've been rather fortunate in not having stirred up many heated arguments, although in a way we try to. Or at least we sometimes try to throw out a suggestion or two that might make some people do a little thinking, perhaps feel like answering us, or stating their side to a controversy. Actually we don't do it on purpose exactly, though we really do enjoy seeing a good discussion—or should we say, read one.

Why don't YOU get mad and try to straighten us out on some subject or other? That all leads to the enjoyment and enlightenment of the populace.

**ADOBE DRUG (Ray S. Duer), 411 First St. W., Sonoma WE 8-297*
Prescription Specialists**

Here's a stunt you can do yourself: Bill Collins over at the Broadway cafe did it, and so can you. He took an empty bottle, a fifth, and

said he could get 25 or more drops out of it. And he did. Tipped the bottle straight up over a glass, and lo and behold, some 27 drops finally emerged from the empty bottle. There must be a reason of some sort.

FRANK'S HARDWARE, Castner Bldg., Boyes. Complete stocks and super service. Paints, Tools, Glass, Plumbers' Supplies.

Real estate headquarters — sales or rentals — **WOODS-FRANQUELIN CO.**, Boyes Springs Branch. Fast service. Personal attention.

Had a nice letter from Channel 5, San Francisco's KPIX. Wrote them telling of some interference in our set when we try their station. And they said it wasn't the first letter they've had on the subject. Thought it might be a local phenomenon, but admitted it might be in the sending apparatus, and that they'd try everything to find the cause and eliminate it. Now wasn't that kinda nice of them?

IT'S VALENTINE TIME. Get your cards, valentines, comics, decorations, party favors, at **BOYES VARIETY STORE**, Hiway 12.

POWDER BOX BEAUTY SHOP, Arnold drive at Ellis'. Same fine equipment and beauty service you've learned to expect.

And next Sunday, Feb. 5, Little Switzerland in El Verano is having its annual International Costume ball. Fessler's all-Swiss orchestra has been booked, and there will be Swiss dinners, and special prizes given for best costumes. The festivities start at 2 p. m. There is no admission charge.

VERN'S THRIFTY DRESS SHOP, Boyes Theater Bldg. Ladies' high class clothes at prices you won't believe. Nothing like it!

B & L LAUNDROMAT, Feters Springs. Why suffer inconvenience washing and drying at home? Low charges here. Try us out.

In our collection trip around the Valley last Saturday somehow or other we're ahead one ball point pencil, a papermate we think. Already own one, so if somebody or other will tell us, he can have his pencil back—with apologies.

LARSON'S LIQUOR & SPORTING GOODS

Sportsmen's Center — Fishermen's and Hunters' Supplies

MIKE & ROSE'S BOYES SPRINGS STORE. We're remodeling, expanding. But the best bargains in meat continue to be found here!

The examination question was a real puzzler. It asked why "psychic" is spelled with a "p." The young man in the far corner didn't know the answer, but he felt he couldn't leave the question unheeded. Shaking his head, he wrote: "I haven't the pslightest idea, but it pcer-tainly does pseem psilly."

BOYES SPRINGS FOOD CENTER. For that Valentine party, stock up with our fine foods, beverages, favors. A one-stop market.

FOR — REDWOOD HANGING BASKET or PATIO PLANTER
Mail \$1.55 to P. O. BOX 398, EL VERANO, CALIF.

Have been wanting for a long time to tell you all about Oregon, Ill., a small town which as we look back seems more Californian than many California communities. It's a county seat town, in some ways about like Sonoma. The courthouse stands in a big square, with retail stores on two sides, then meandering down a side street. A jail stands at one corner of the square. It used to be quite a thrill to go past the jail and talk to the "hardened criminals," whom we couldn't see but could hear.

They had band concerts every Saturday night during the summer months—oh, maybe 16 players in all. But they did play pretty music. We kids would buy popcorn (5 cents for a great big bag, heavily buttered), eat it on the lawns which covered the square, or sit upon one or the other of the two cannons which guarded the walk leading to the courthouse entrance.

Then there is a river, the Rock, about twice as large as the Russian. Good fishing near the dam. And Margaret Fuller island lies up the river a short mile. Long ago there was a steamboat which docked at Oregon. Excursion trains came out from Chicago and the passengers took the short trip on the boat to the island. Ganymede Springs, made famous 'way back by Margaret Fuller, an Italian writer, is at the foot of huge bluffs, where there was an eagles' nest; and the famous sculptor Lorado Taft and many of his artist friends made the high bluff their summer camping grounds. Taft presented a huge statue of Black Hawk, the old Indian chiefton, to the world. It stands on the bluff, seen by thousands of tourists each year.

But about the town being much like California: There is superb scenery thereabouts. A large proportion of the people are "sporting minded." They think nothing of jumping into their cars and driving to Chicago, 100 miles away, to take in the horse races. They bet on anything. They play poker. There are seven bars in the town, two more on the outskirts. There is a mighty fine golf course and clubhouse, something comparable with Sonoma Golf and Country club. The Ogle county fair is held annually, has been for about 100 years by now—three big days of fun and frolic.

But they're kinda religious too. There are at least four protestant churches, one catholic. Haven't seen the place for 12 years, but we're told there are hundreds of new homes, new business places, and of course they've had good roads, water system, sewers and all the things that make for civic pride, for years and years.

Okay, why don't we go back? It's just plain too cold during the

winters. That's why we came out here—so we would never have to shiver again. And how about the weather here during the last few weeks?

PARSONS LUMBER HARDWARE CO. (Formerly Valley Lbr. Co. Same ownership, name changed. Phone WE 8-2140. Quality lumber
VALLEY OF THE MOON CIGARS—Handmade right here in the Valley. Superior quality. Get 'em at most dealers.

Somebody told us during the last week he likes Moonbeams 'cause it doesn't take too dim a view of the foibles of mankind. That's true, we like to think. What's so terribly serious about living, anyway? Everything's going to be all right, if you just pray a little once in a while, and work like'ell to make things better for yourself, your neighbors, and all people everywhere.

CHRYSTAL'S SMART SHOP, Plaza Center Bldg., Boyes Springs
Smart Apparel for Women Hosiery Lingerie Separates

MAC DONALD'S JEWELRY, Sonoma. Expert watch service. Jewelry for everybody. Watches. Shavers. Watch Bands. Rings.

So they're going to try to revive the 90 per cent parity program to "help the farmers!" President Ike will veto it, sure as shootin'. And he should. That's what got the farmers into their present mess anyway.

Most independent farmers don't care for government subsidies. They would of course like to buy their feed and farm machinery at prices nearer normal than they now are. Prices are highly inflated for at least two reasons: The government program which has tried to keep prices up for the manufacturers, and the greed of the labor union bosses for constantly higher wages. (They've got to try for that, or they'd be out of jobs.)

The big corporation farmers naturally like the subsidies, but the average family farm owner doesn't want nor does he need help in the way of parity subsidies. He can get along. He is enjoying a "way of life" in addition to growing and selling a product.

All right. A little businessman has his ups and downs. Maybe it's conditions over which he has no control. Maybe he could be more efficient in running his business. But is there any subsidy for him? Does he ask for one? Heck, no. He goes along doing the best he can, and that's all anyone can ask of anybody in business.

BUD THOMPSON, Plaza Barber, Boyes Springs, for the best and fastest barber service anywhere. Hair styling a specialty.

GET ACQUAINTED with the quaintest tavern in the Valley—**RUSTIC INN**, Glen Ellen. Bring your guests. **GUNNER** and **RUTH**.

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"A deep freeze is a place where things are kept which used to be in the refrigerator. The refrigerator now holds all the things that used to be in the cupboard. The cupboard is bare."

ROZARIO'S PALMS INN, Verano. Quiet and homelike, it's the favorite place for banquets, dinners, parties. And cocktails.

BUD'S GARAGE, Calle del Monte, opp. Food Center, Boyes. Your best bet for car repair work of all kinds. Work guaranteed.

THE LAST STRAW. What are your chances of drawing a big hand in a poker game? Jerry Lewis asserts there are 2,598,960 possible combinations, and that you have

- 1 chance in 649,740 for a royal flush.
- 1 chance in 64,973 for a straight flush.
- 1 chance in 4,164 for four of a kind.
- 1 chance in 693 for a full house.
- 1 chance in 508 for a flush.
- 1 chance in 254 for a straight.
- 1 chance in 46 for three of a kind.
- 1 chance in 20 for two pairs.
- 1 chance in $1\frac{1}{4}$ for one pair.

The man who has the best chance in a poker game, however, adds Lewis, is the fellow who knows just when to quit and go home.

SONOMA GROVE, on Hiway 12 south of Boyes. Italian food is our specialty, but every kind is available. You'll like us. Cocktails.

MANCUSO WINES, grower-produced. Glen Ellen. Available at every retail outlet. As good as the best, better than most.

Have you felt like writing a letter to the editor? On any subject? Just go ahead and write it. But please sign your name. We get 'em right along, many of them unsigned. So we can't print those. We must know the writer's identity, but don't necessarily have to print the name as signed if the writer prefers to remain anonymous. But we must have your signature. Please remember.

COSTUME BALL starting 2 p. m. Sunday. Prizes. Fessler's Band. Swiss food. Try us Saturday nights. LITTLE SWITZERLAND.

GALLO BROS., Boyes. DeSoto and Plymouth authorized dealers. Complete service. Repairs all cars. For towing, call WE 8-5415.

Mark Twain once told a story of his early lecturing days. Arriving in a town where he was to speak in the early afternoon and seeing that the evening lecture was poorly billed, he stopped in at the general store and, addressing the proprietor, said: "Good afternoon, friend; any entertainment here tonight to help a stranger while away his evening?" The storekeeper straightened up, wiped his hands on his apron and said: "I expect maybe that there's going to be a lecture 'cause I sure been sellin' lots of eggs today."

PAUL'S OLD RANCHERO, Verano. A "must" visit whenever your out-of-town friends drop in. Have dinner with us. A cocktail, too.
BOB'S CIGAR STORE, Sonoma. Smokers are right at home at Bob's. So are lovers of billiards. Wide variety for all tobacco users.

It was the little fellow's first time at Sunday school, and at home his mother waited anxiously for a report and for his impressions.

"Well, it was kinda nice," admitted the little fellow. "At the end everybody sang." "What did they sing?" asked mother. "I don't know," he replied, "but I sang Davy Crockett!"

GEORGE handles the Meats at Boyes Springs Food Center. He knows his business, is pleased to cut meat to your order.

OUR RESORT, El Verano. Harvey and Melina the hosts. Draft beer. Excellent mixed drinks. Home of the Stein Club.

It was tough for Joe to get up in the morning, so he went to his doctor who prescribed a certain pill. Joe took the pill, slept well, and was awake before he heard the alarm clock. He dressed and ate breakfast leisurely. Later he strolled into the office and said to the boss: "You know, I didn't have a bit of trouble getting up this morning."

"That's interesting," replied the boss, "but where were you yesterday?"

DENNY'S COG CLUB, main corner, Boyes. Denny, Leo and Gene on duty. Sportsmen's headquarters. A good place to know.

GERTRUDE DETERS, Box 396, El Verano. Representative for National Monument Co., also finest calendars, matches, printing.

FIELDS UNION SERVICE, Main Corner, Boyes. Union Oil products. Experienced mechanic on duty. Guaranteed service.

A wealthy Texan was driving his Rolls Royce along the highway when he spotted a hitchhiker. As the hitchhiker got into the car, he noticed a pair of thick glasses lying on the front seat next to the driver. "Pardon me, sir," he said, "but don't you think that you should be wearing your glasses while you're driving?"

The Texan shook his head slowly and drawled: "Don't let a little thing like that bother you, son. This windshield is ground to my prescription."

FIRESIDE LODGE, just west of Sonoma, Hiway 12. Barbecuing a specialty—steaks, chops, poultry, ribs. Cocktail bar. Banquets.

FISH BOWL, 140 Trinity Rr. off Hiway 12. Tropical fish, goldfish, supplies, equipment. Closed Thursdays. Hours 9 to 5.

EL DORADO HOTEL, Sonoma. Try our Italian dinners in this historic hostelry, famous since the days of the 49ers.

Our El Verano colleague, one J. H. M., says in effect: "I agree

with you wholeheartedly in your complaints against union bosses; They're parasites. I would not destroy unions, if I could. But I would eliminate evils associated therewith.

"I would give the unions back to the members, would have them conducted under conditions compatible with our constitution. For the protection of members, I would strengthen the Taft-Hartley law, not weaken it."

SONOMA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, for the best food in the Valley. Excellent cocktail bar. Sumptuously luxuriant.

MENDEL'S CAFE, on the Plaza, Boyes. Earning a wide reputation for good steaks, chops, chicken. Cocktail bar.

SAM FRISCIA, Wholesale-Retail SEAFOOD. Craig Ave., off Arnold Drive. Cooked Crabs (we crack and clean), prawns, filets, abalone.

GLEN ELLEN LIQUOR STORE. On Arnold Drive. Complete selection of fine wines and liquors. "SLIM" WALLACE.

HOW TO EAT CRAB: Many persons have been baffled about the proper way to eat a hard shelled crab out of its shell. One introduction to the method is always enough—the experienced person never forgets how to eat a crab.

If the boiled crab is to be served whole, the pointed ends of the shell should be lifted and the spongy white fibers removed. Then turn the crab on its back and remove the apron, the small loose shell running to a point at about the middle of the undershell.

When the crab is to be served whole, the shell and claws are cracked gently before being brought to the table. The first step in eating the meat is to cut off the claws, using the knife and fork. Finally cut the crab in two and then into quarters.

Proceed to extract the meat from each quarter with the fork, and eat with salt and pepper, and mayonnaise. It is considered quite correct to use the fingers, especially when eating the claws.

RICHFIELD SERVICE, Boyes, Plaza at Hiway 12. Bud Delaney is the proprietor. Highest quality gas and oil, tires, batteries.

LEE STARRETT, Masseur, at Bathhouse, Boyes. Massages, slenderizing. You'll look and feel better. Make it a habit.

SONOMA MISSION INN, known throughout the nation for quality dinners, cocktails, friendliness. Convention headquarters.

So a "balanced budget" has been proposed! Third time in some 25 years, 'tis said. Actually, if we owed more money than could ever be paid during a lifetime, we wouldn't exactly call it "balanced." Not until our \$275 billion national debt is whittled down about 9-10ths at least. Sure, we might be able to pay current yearly expenses, but what about that debt?

**SOL D. BECKER SELLS REAL ESTATE—
Every Once in Awhile**